

5 INK JET RECORDING APPARATUS CAPABLE OF PERFORMING
A DUPLEX PRINT OPERATION

CROSS-REFERENCES TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

Law *Law*
[0001] This application claims priority from, and is a continuation of U.S. ^{10/218,471} Patent Application No. ~~10/218,472~~, filed August 14, 2002, which is now U.S. PATENT NO. 6,719,469, which was a continuation of application Serial No. 09/330,669, filed June 11, 1999, ^{which was abandoned,} each of which is incorporated by reference herein.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] This invention relates to an ink jet recording apparatus, and more particularly to an ink jet recording apparatus which is capable of performing a duplex
15 print operation such that printing is performed on both sides of a sheet of paper.

[0003] An ink jet recording apparatus has been used widely as an image forming mechanism in printers, copying machines, and so on. Some ink jet recording apparatuses are capable of operating in a duplex print mode in which a print operation can be performed on both sides of the recording sheet. One
20 example of such a printer is described in Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. JPAP08-337011 (1996). The ink jet recording apparatus according to this example is adapted to perform a duplex print operation by using two recording mechanisms which are positioned in the ink jet recording apparatus so as to be spaced apart from each other. Accordingly, the structure of the ink jet recording
25 apparatus becomes complex and the apparatus itself becomes relatively large and expensive because of the use of two recording mechanisms, as well as, a plurality of